

RE: Docket #03-187 (Birds vs. communication towers:

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to request that the FCC:

- * begin a systematic review of communication tower and bird mortality issues;
- * institute a research program, funded by the communications industry, to identify tower placement, design and lighting conditions that result in bird mortality;
- * undertake environmental reviews of all existing towers to assess their placement and design with regard to migratory bird impacts;
- * require that all proposed towers be subjected to rigorous environmental reviews;
- * and implement immediate protections based on existing knowledge, such as the voluntary tower siting and placement guidelines developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Cherie L. Rachel
Chairman, Animal Advisory Commission
Austin & Travis County, TX